

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1-35 presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 12, 20, 21, 31, and 32 are amended herein. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pung (US 2002/0150099) in view of Xiong (US 6,671,256) and Veeraraghavan (US 2003/0053475).

“To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Amended claim 1 recites,

A method for establishing a reservation of a lightpath traversing a plurality of connected lightpath segments between source and destination nodes in an optical switched network, wherein the lightpath is one of a **plurality of lightpaths, each lightpath to route signals between the source and destination nodes** in the optical switched network, the method comprising:

storing, at a node coupled between the source and destination nodes, input wavelengths of a downstream lightpath segment for each of the plurality of lightpaths;

making a soft reservation of node resources supporting respective lightpath segments from among the plurality of lightpath segments, the soft reservation of the node resources corresponding to a future scheduled time period for which the lightpath is requested to be reserved, wherein the future scheduled time period includes a scheduled start time;

determining if adequate node resources are available for reservation during the future scheduled time period to support traversal of the entire lightpath; and

making a hard reservation to commit node resources corresponding to the future scheduled time period if adequate node resources are determined to be available.

Thus, independent claim 1 includes a plurality of lightpaths where each lightpath is to route signals between the source and destination nodes, where input wavelengths of a downstream lightpath segment for each of the lightpaths is stored at a node between the source and destination nodes. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest, at least, this expressly recited element as is more fully explained below.

In the rejection of independent claim 1, the Examiner acknowledges that Pung fails to teach a method that is applicable to lightpaths. Office Action, 11/28/07, page 2. *Since, Pung fails to teach a method that is applicable to lightpaths, Pung necessarily fails to disclose, teach or suggest storing, a node coupled between the source and destination nodes, input wavelengths of a downstream lightpath segment for each of the plurality of lightpaths, as presently claimed by Applicants.*

Xiong does not cure the deficiencies of Pung. For example, Xiong states at col. 4, lines 23-33,

The fiber and **channel database 310** receives and stores network information from the routing processor 305 and the signaling processor 315. This network information includes (1) the inbound and outbound fibers and the **wavelengths within each fiber**; (2) the inbound and outbound data channel groups, control channel groups, and channels within each group; (3) the mapping of data channel groups, control channel groups, and channels within each group to the physical fibers and wavelengths; and (4) the status of each inbound/outbound data channel 205.

[Emphasis added]. Xiong further states at col. 3, lines 60-61, that channel database 310 is included in edge router 300. Thus, Xiong recites storing the network information, including the wavelengths of each fiber at an **edge router 300**, not at a plurality of nodes coupled between source and destination nodes, as claimed by Applicants. *Since Xiong discloses that the network information including the wavelengths is stored in a channel database of an edge router, the reference necessarily fails to disclose, teach or suggest storing, at a node coupled between the source and destination nodes, input*

wavelengths of a downstream lightpath segment for each of the plurality of lightpaths, as presently claimed by Applicants.

Veeraraghavan does not cure the deficiencies of Pung or Xiong. Thus, Pung, Xiong, and Veeraghavan, whether taken singularly or in combination fail to disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element of claim 1, as required under M.P.E.P. §2143.03. Independent claims 20 and 31 include similar nonobvious elements as independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 20 and 31 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are nonobvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections of the dependent claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 28, 2008

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